

# INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS



LOCAL 99

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.  
Business Manager

Wayne A. Tait  
President

May 12, 2022

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Representative Raymond A. Hull  
Chair, House Municipal Government and Housing Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903  
[rep-hull@rilegislature.gov](mailto:rep-hull@rilegislature.gov)  
[HouseMunicipalGovernmentandHousing@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseMunicipalGovernmentandHousing@rilegislature.gov)

## ***Re: Support for H 8220; An Act Related to Taxation – Levy and Assessment of Local Taxes***

Dear Chairman Hull:

As Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 99, I represent 800 Women and Men who provide their skills for our seventy-four signatory contractors in the Electrical Industry in the State of Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. I am also one of, if not the only voice for the men and women who are not yet fortunate enough to be represented by an electrical labor union in the state of Rhode Island.

I wish to express our **support for H-8220** for the following reasons:

The men and women I represent are the best in the industry. They are highly trained, amazingly skilled, and safely install photovoltaic and wind projects in time-frames that are almost unbelievable.

Unfortunately although my people are the very best, they can still be out of work. One challenge that is preventing the State from reaching our renewable energy goals is the unpredictability of the annual and end costs of a given project. One major factor in that is municipal tax assessment on the projects.

When a renewable development project is unjustly targeted, with regard to taxation, it has a significant impact on the Rhode Island men and women who do this work. It also has a devastating impact on our State reaching our renewable goals.

The vast majority of municipalities do not abuse their power and unfairly discriminate against renewable projects via unbalanced taxation but several still do. Passage of this critical legislation will ensure that developers can have some predictability of their tax burden when they initially contemplate a project.

In conclusion, we **urge passage of H-8220** to eliminate the discriminatory process of random and capricious taxation targeting anything a municipal government may not care for at a particular time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.  
cc: Paul Macdonald / Lobbyist  
Esteemed Committee Members  
RI AFL-CIO  
Climate Jobs RI  
BuildRI  
Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades